

Message Text

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63

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SPC-03 AID-20 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 SCEM-02

INT-08 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 SCI-06 TAR-02 L-03

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

DRC-01 /177 W

----- 088834

R 261708Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8996

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

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E. O. 11652 NA

TAGS: ENRG, BE

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM EXPORT CONTROL REGULATIONS

REF: BRUSSELS 6049

1. GOB OFFICIAL DAILY RECORD, MONITEUR BELGE, PUBLISHED ON
OCTOBER 24 MINISTERIAL DECREE DATED OCTOBER 19 WHICH ADDS
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS TO THE LIST OF COMMODITIES SUBJECT TO EXPORT
CONTROLS.

2. LICENSE REQUIREMENT WENT INTO EFFECT OCTOBER 24, DESPITE
PUBLIC STATEMENT BY MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CLAES (AND
PRIVATE ASSURANCE TO EMBOFF BY SENIOR GOB OFFICIAL) THAT NEW
AUTHORITY WOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED AT THIS TIME. INFORMATION
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AS TO PURPOSE AND EXTENT OF NEW CONTROLS VERY INCOMPLETE.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS REPLIED TO OUR INQUIRIES BY CLAIMING THAT NEW PROCEDURE WAS SOLELY FOR SURVEILLANCE PURPOSES AS WELL AS TO CONTROL PURELY "SPECULATIVE" SHIPMENTS. AMERICAN OIL COMPANY EXEC REPORTS DELAY IN OBTAINING LICENSE TO SHIP TO SWEDEN ALTHOUGH HE FEELS SHIPMENTS WITHIN EC WILL CONTINUE WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES FOR TIME BEING. BELGIAN PETROLEUM COMPANIES (INCLUDING AMERICAN) WILL BE MEETING WITH NUMBER OF MINISTERS LATE OCTOBER 26 TO REVIEW AND DISCUSS PROBLEM.

3. BELGIAN PETROLEUM STOCKS (LARGELY IN INDUSTRY HANDS) VARIES FROM THREE TO FOUR MONTHS, DEPENDING ON PRODUCT. MAJOR PROBLEM FOR GOB IS PRICE DIFFERENTIAL BETWEEN BELGIAN AND OTHER EC RETAIL PRICES (SEE REFTEL) WHICH IS DISTORTING MARKET TO DETRIMENT BELGIAN CONSUMERS. HOWEVER, MINECONAFFAIRS CLAES, IN SAME PRESS INTERVIEW MENTIONED PARA 2, STATED THAT "THERE IS NO QUESTION OF INCREASING PRICES" AT THIS TIME.

STRAUSZ-HUPE

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

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